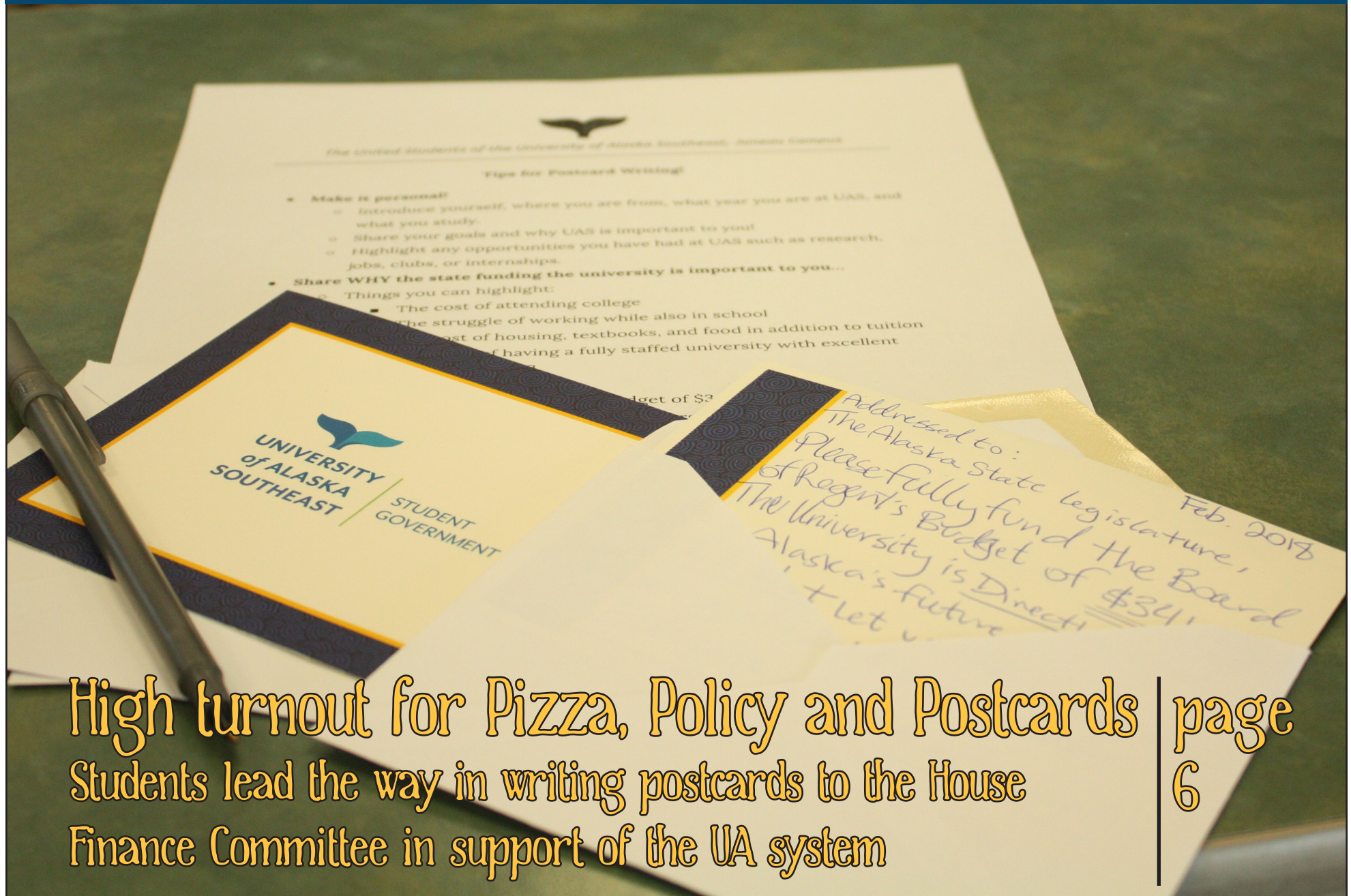


UNIVERSITY of ALASKA SOUTHEAST WHALESONG

March 7, 2018



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UAS professors lead conversation in climate
change during a presentation Mar. 2

ON THE COVER...

Students milled in and out of the Glacier View room on Feb. 28 to write letters of support for the UA Board of Regents request for \$341 million to the House Finance Committee. Over 40 students shared personal stories for house members to read.

Photo by UAS Whalesong Photographer McKenna Kincaid.

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STUDENT NEWSPAPER, THE WHALESONG:

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— UAS Answers — *everybody's got one ...*

*What class have you taken that you
would recommend to other students?*



No photo:

"I would recommend
Introduction to
Psychology, because
you get to learn how
to not only understand
how your mind works,
but others as well. It's
very interesting."
-Mackenzie Brown,
Freshman, Psychology

"Any class with Sol Neely! He
has a great energy and passion for
what he teaches."
-Keefer Brown, Freshman,
Marine Biology



"Introduction to GIS, it is a really
interesting class and looks good
on resumes!"
-Emma Hopkins, Junior, Fishery
Studies



"Sociology, you learn a lot
about yourself, and learn to
see things in a different"
-Alondra Echiverri, Freshman,
Undeclared

A Letter from the Editor

My testimony to the House Finance Committee

My experience testifying to advocate for the University of Alaska Southeast

By **ERIN LAUGHLIN**
Managing Editor, UAS Whalesong

On Friday Mar. 2 UAS Student Government President Breanna Walker and I went down to the State Capitol building to deliver the 38 postcards written by students, faculty and staff.

While the main objective was to deliver postcards, we also testified to the House Finance Committee in support for the UA system.

The room was packed full, almost overflowing, of people wanting to testify for various causes. The need for an income tax, more funding for elementary school, more funding for drug rehabilitation and mental health funding. The testimonies varied from personal experiences to visions of the future for Alaska.

Looking around the room listening to my fellow Alaskan's needs made me feel even more connected to my adopted home. I felt energized to give my testimony after listening to others speak so passionately.

I also was extremely nervous considering I had written my two minute testimony in 10 minutes before giving it. I knew what I generally wanted to say, but it was getting to the eloquent way of saying it was the hard part.

So, for inspiration I thought about the reason why I go to UAS.

I go to UAS because it is here, it's available for me to physically go to classes.

I live in Juneau. I am a homeowner in Juneau. I ain't leaving. I fell in love with Alaska and fell in love with the price of secondary education here.

Fully funding the budget allows the UA system to have a fully staffed university with a diverse collection of classes and opportunities for students.

Being in the Business Administration program I already suffer with limited options for in person classes, and I fear that with further budget cuts my program will 100 percent online.

I highlighted the value of having a fully staffed university with excellent faculty and staff.

I spoke to the diverse classes, clubs and employment opportunities provided by UAS.

I think the thing that really struck those who listened to my testimony was that the reason I stayed in Alaska was because of the affordability of school here, in comparison to down south.

Due to the low cost of school my short adventure to Alaska turned in to a permanent move. I am proof that affordability bring people in to this state, but what is found here makes people stay.

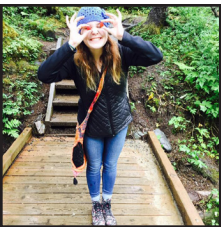
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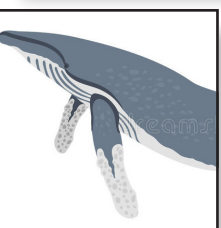
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UAS In Brief

A selection of press releases from the University of Alaska Southeast

UAS Announces Awards for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities

The Undergraduate REsearch & Creative Activities (URECA) program at the University of Alaska Southeast provides opportunities for students to engage in extra-curricular research and creative activities that complement and expand upon traditional classroom learning.

Eligible projects are awarded up to \$2500, and seven students received awards for 2018. A large portion of the funding for this year's awards came from the University of Alaska President's Priority Funds, as part of President Johnsen's Strategic Investment in Research Support. "We are quite pleased at the variety and quality of this years' cohort of URECA scholars, who span a range of artistic, humanistic, and scientific fields and display the sort of creative thinking characteristic of UAS students," stated Dr. Brian Buma, chair of the UAS Research and Creative Activity Committee.

Luke Holton was awarded \$2,500 in support of his project, Cultural trauma and resiliency in colonial displacement of Tlingit place names.

Holton notes, "This film project will document the history of European colonialization of Southeast Alaska by analyzing the system of place names. I intend to research the stories behind ten traditional Tlingit terrain features and compare the subsequent Anglo names assigned by explorers and the U.S. Board of Geographic Names. This is in hopes of increasing the importance of language revitalization programs and understanding the effect of language and place within cultural identity."

Holton's faculty mentors are Dr. Dan Monteith and Dr. Glenn Wright.

UAS disc golf baskets - relocation for new course creation is the title of Morgan Johnson's project; she was awarded

\$2,500 and explains, "My project would be relocating the existing disc golf baskets on the UAS campus to the woods behind John Pugh Hall (JPH) to build a functional 9 hole course, complete with a tee box to every relocated basket, trashcans, benches, signs and trails throughout the course. I would use mobile GIS to plot points of the baskets, tee boxes, trails and trashcans thus creating a map overview of the course that could be displayed at the beginning of the course.

The final product would be a functioning disc golf course people could use featuring a map overview at the beginning of the course displaying hole information and layout." Johnson's faculty mentors are Dr. Brian Blitz and Dr. Sanjay Pyare.

The third URECA project to be funded is titled Growing up in care and is directed by Richard McGrail who writes, "Drug addiction rates have increased in Alaska since 2010, and as a result, more children have been entering foster care. Some will spend their entire childhoods living "in care"—either in group homes, in foster homes, or with relatives. This project aims to document their experiences through film. It will video record the oral histories of young adult residents of S.E. Alaska who grew up in foster care.

It will ask them about the challenges they faced and how those challenges continue to affect their daily lives. It will also explore the relationships between drug abuse, domestic violence, and the legacy of colonialism in the region. The film will be shown at UAS and will be freely available online." McGrail's faculty mentor is Forest Wagner.

Trevor McLean was awarded \$2,350 for his project High frequency pH oscillations in the benthic region of SE Alaska. He describes his project in this way, "My project analyzes deployments of a Seabird Sea pHox CTD (Sea pHox) in Auke Bay. To acquire data, the instrument needs to be deployed in the field. I'm requesting funds to purchase needed research equipment to deploy the Sea pHox."

McLean's faculty mentor is Dr. Mike Stekoll.

The salinity threshold of Market Squid

embryos in Southeast Alaska proposed by Vasily Sekerak was the fifth project to be awarded from the President's Priority funds and Vasily writes, "My research project is to predict geographical limits of market squid spawning by testing the salinity thresholds of their embryos. I will simulate sea conditions of the inner passage of southeast Alaska. This is a significant topic because market squid, who normally only range into Alaskan water temporarily under certain warm conditions, have been observed in increasing numbers in recent years. The questions I seek to answer are, where can they spawn and what does this mean for ocean and fisheries health? By collecting data on how squid embryos react to changes in their environment I will be able to contribute new information to Alaskan marine biology and fisheries."

Sekerak's faculty mentor is Dr. Mike Navarro.

Breanna Walker was awarded \$2,500 for her project, Investigation of water quality and heavy metals concentrations in streambed sediments in the vicinity of a proposed mining project, Glacier Creek, SE AK and Breanna explains, "This project will collect samples of streambed sediments in Glacier Creek, which is part of the Chilkat River Watershed, to obtain baseline heavy metal concentrations.

A mining exploration project is underway in Glacier Creek Watershed, exploring a sulfide deposit, which if developed, would likely generate acid rock drainage (ARD). The nearby towns, Klukwan, a Tlingit Village, and Haines, Alaska, rely on the Chilkat River for the salmon fishery it supports, both commercial and subsistence. ARD and trace metals pose a high risk to salmon and water quality. It is critical to assess heavy metals before further mining activities occur. The data collected in this project will be used to assess the concentration of heavy metals in streambed sediments in Glacier Creek; it will also serve as a benchmark indicator for future water quality assessments."

Walker's faculty mentor is Dr. Sonia Nagorski.

Dawn Wehde's project, Insight into the increasing presence of market squid, *Doryteuthis opalescens*, in Southeast Alaska through statolith microstructure and physiology analysis was awarded \$240. She states, "Market squid, *Doryteuthis opalescens*, have been observed continuously in Southeast Alaska since 2015. Prior, only transient populations were documented. To

better understand their persistence, in this ongoing pilot study squid were collected from the 2017 Alaska Fisheries Science Center Ecosystem Monitoring and Assessment GOA benthic trawl survey on 5, and 10-11 July 2017 and opportunistically collected from Sitka Sound on 8 May 2017. Analysis of samples will include mantle length, gonadosomatic index, and statolith microstructure to estimate the sexual maturity, hatch time, age, and growth rate of the squid.

In California, market squid tend to feed offshore and migrate inshore to reproduce. Because of this, we anticipate that the squid collected offshore will be younger and further from sexual maturity than those caught inshore at Sitka Sound. Our findings will aid in the understanding of the market squid population in Southeast Alaska."

Wehde's faculty mentor is Dr. Mike Navarro.

Projects will be highlighted during the URECA Symposium, which occurs during National Undergraduate Research Week. On Wednesday, April 11 beginning at 2:00, students will deliver presentations at the UAS URECA Student Symposium on the Juneau campus, in the Glacier View Room in the Egan Classroom Wing. All are welcome. Dr. Paula J.S. Martin, Interim Dean of the UAS School of Arts and Sciences said, "Undergraduate research provides enormous benefits, to students, to faculty, and to expanding discovery. These young scholars gain experiences usually reserved for more senior graduate students, preparing them for post-graduate opportunities of all kinds.

This year's URECA projects range from truly creative creations, to multi-cultural social science studies, to valuable scientific explorations of natural resources. Impressive! I am looking forward to hearing more from these students, both at the April URECA Symposium and into the future."

These releases were given to the Whalesong by the Office of the Chancellor or copied from UA News emails from the UA Office of Public Affairs. For more information, contact Keni Campbell, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor / Public Information Officer.

More to curling than what meets the ice

Understanding the baffling sport of curling and learning how integrity plays it's important role



By PENELOPE LITZEN
Staff Writer, UAS Whalesong

I've witnessed murmurs of curling activity in the far north and family members enthusiastically sweeping and sliding milk jugs across the kitchen floor.

The recent interest left me wondering about the sport of curling, and whether or not it was worth the hype.

According to the World Curling Federation, curling involves two teams, typically of four players. Each team takes turns sliding curling stones, which are roughly 40 pounds of granite with a handle, down a sheet of ice to a circular target, called the house.

Each team slides, or "throws" eight stones in a round, called an end, either aiming for the center of the house, blocking the opponent's throw to the house, or knocking the opponent's stone out of the house. When one team member throws, the others then act as sweepers, intensively brushing the ice in front of the moving rock with brooms to polish the surface of

the ice.

After an end, one team scores by having their stones closer to the center of the house than the opposing team. It's called curling because the stone rotates as it travels, which creates a curved path.

But there's more to curling than what meets the ice.

UAS Advising Coordinator Aimée Richards, who grew up curling in her small town in Canada, shared some of the detail and character of the game.

Highlighting some of the complexities that most people are unaware of, "It's very much a strategy game," Richards said.

Richards explained how players must predict how the next plays will unfold, "It's kind of like chess. You are always looking a few steps ahead. It is fun to analyze, yourself, what might happen."

The ice is maintained in a way very specific to curling. After the initial flooding and freezing, the sheet must then be "pebbled," by a process of spraying water droplets onto the ice surface that then

freeze on contact, creating a texture that the stones can glide across.

Curling requires the players to learn the ice as they're playing on it, because the pebble can vary depending on the rink, the area of the ice sheet, and the person who pebbles it. The ice is even kept at a temperature specific to curling, differing from that of other ice sports, according to Richards.

Richards also described the bonspiels, or tournaments, that she and her family curling team would go to. "It's a very social sport," she said. "Every year there would be a bonspiel tournament, and my family would go. When I became a teenager I then joined the ladies league. You have games through Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Then on Sunday there would be a big party," she said.

Fairbanks Curling Club Board Secre-

tary Jennifer Ostnes defined the Spirit of Curling as, "being competitive but also having camaraderie, good sportsmanship and honesty." She explained that this means both encouraging one's own team and always respecting the other team. A respect for the game of curling is also shown in that players are expected to call their own penalties, such as touching a stone with their broom.


"It doesn't matter if you're a newer curler or a super experienced competitive curler at a national or international level-you call a fair game," Ostnes said.

With a sport so uniquely characterized by good spirit, it is unfortunate that there are no curling rinks in Juneau. There are, however, curling clubs in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Homer.

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High turnout for Pizza, Policy and Postcards

Students lead the way in writing postcards to the House Finance Committee in support of the UA system

By **MCKENNA KINCAID**

Photographer, UAS Whalesong

UAS students gather to write postcards to local legislature about raising funding for the University of Alaska. The event was hosted by UAS Student Government, and focused on funding for the university system.

UAS Student Government President Breanna Walker explained the importance of facilitating student voices, “We wanted to give students an opportunity to reach out to the Alaska State Legislature in a fairly informal, but personal way.”

“Hosting this event was a fun way for us, Student Government, to help students advocate for the university and share why the University of Alaska is important in their lives,” said Walker.

Writers were encouraged to make their postcards personal and share why the state funding the university is important to them.

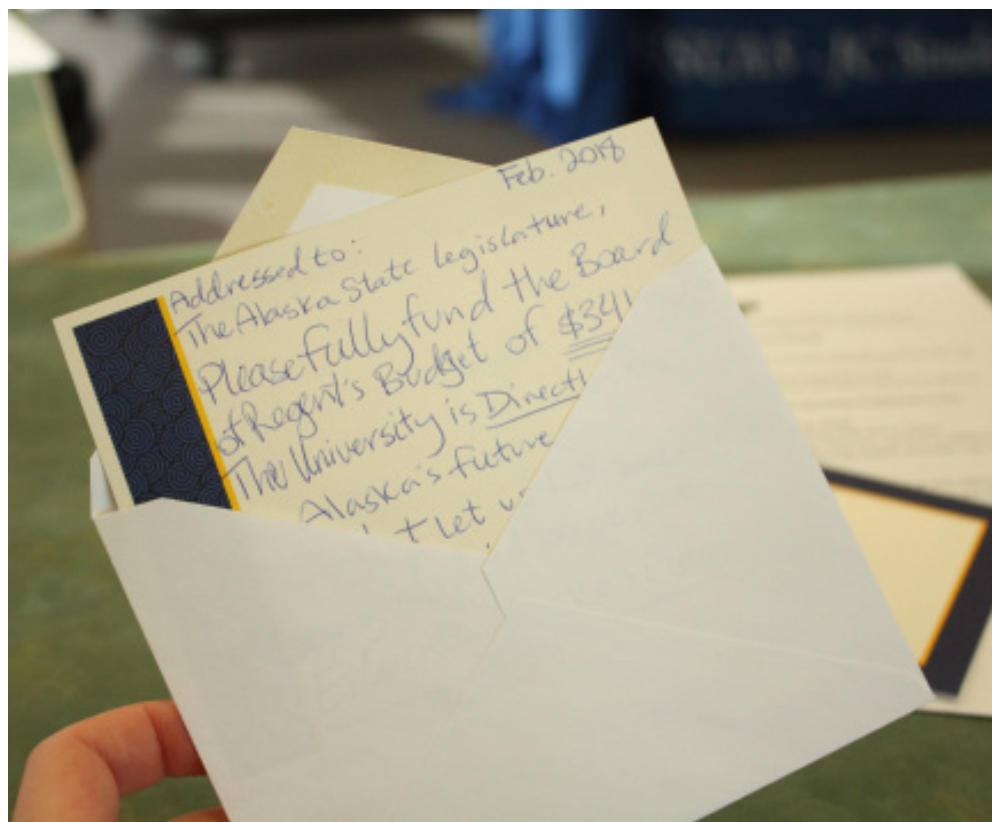
A point of contention with the postcard campaign was requesting the funding to ensure that the UA system could keep the Alaska Performance Scholarship.

Students, faculty, staff and community members wrote 38 postcards, according to UAS Student Government administrative assistant Monika Kunat.

The postcards were taken to the House Finance Committee meeting Mar. 2 where Walker also testified in advocacy for the university.



UAS Student Government member Tristan Luhr writing about providing funding for a fully staffed university to the Finance Committee.



LEFT: One of almost forty postcards written by students, staff and faculty to the Senate Finance Committee in support of the Board of Regents proposed budget of \$341 million.

ABOVE: Student Nick Whiker enjoys pizza while composing a postcard.

PHOTOS BY MCKENNA KINCAID | UAS WHALESONG

Black Panther in film and comics: a comparison

Whalesong reviews the blockbuster film in relation to it's history in comics

By **JORDAN LEWIS**

Staff Writer, UAS Whalesong

With the release of the overwhelmingly popular Black Panther movie, I decided to read the comic in order to establish a good basic understanding of the character going.

In doing this, I found that Disney translated many aspects of the character and his world with consistency.

Without getting into spoilers for the film, the story is about T'Challa accepting his position as king and the responsibilities that come with that role.

It picks up his story arc where Captain America Civil War left off, with the loss of his father, King T'Chaka. This ties into the characters origin story which, while mostly unexplored, is still represented by his actions in the film. T'Challa misses his father and feels that he isn't ready for a world without him.

This is similar to his comic origin, where T'Challa becomes both king of Wakanda and the Black Panther after the death of his father to Ulysses Klaue. This aspect of his origin was changed to tie into the narrative of Captain America Civil War but, lead to the same motivation.

As the movie progresses, we are introduced to other members of T'Challa's family, his half-sister Shuri and his step-mother Queen Ramonda. While the film did not focus on Ramonda in the ways of character development, or as anything other than a plot device, Shuri received many scenes to establish her as a solid character.

Shuri has been a significant character in the Black Panther comics for a few years now and its portrayed quite accurately by actress Letitia Wright.

Shuri functions as the technological innovator for Wakanda, coming up with new

Nakia, in the comics, is a woman obsessed with gaining the Black Panther's love until she is banished for murdering a woman in order to get closer to T'Challa.

ways to use Vibranium in order to improve Wakanda.

In the comics, Shuri goes on to become Queen of Wakanda in T'Challa's absence as well as becoming the Black Panther for a short run

Two of the film's characters, love-interest Nakia and main villain Erik "Killmonger" Stevens, were the

most altered when being brought to the big screen. However, I feel this was to the benefit of the film.

Nakia is portrayed as a woman who longs for Wakanda to offer its help to the world instead of hiding all of its technology. She is also set up as T'challa's ex and primary love interest in the story.

This differs heavily from her comic counterpart, who is a villain to Black Panther. Nakia, in the

comics, is a woman obsessed with gaining the Black Panther's love until she is banished for murdering a woman in order to get closer to T'Challa. She would then be trained by Killmonger and be renamed Malice, leading her to become a villain to get revenge on T'Challa.

Killmonger, the films main villain, is a long-standing character in the Black Panther world. However the film changed many aspects of his character, both to make him more relatable and tie his origin into the message of the film about responsibility.

Killmonger, in the comics, was from N'Jadaka village, which N'Jadaka was also his original name when Klaue attacked. Killmonger's father was involved in the

Overall, the film looks into themes of responsibility and injustice as a double-edged sword.



attack which leads to him and his family being banished from Wakanda. This causes

Erik to develop resentment towards T'Challa, swearing to return and take Wakanda away from him.

The film portrays Killmonger quite differently. He is displayed as a man who seeks justice for all of the racial injustices that black people have suffered

around the world. This makes him a relatable character, where I could see what he wanted to do being a good thing but going

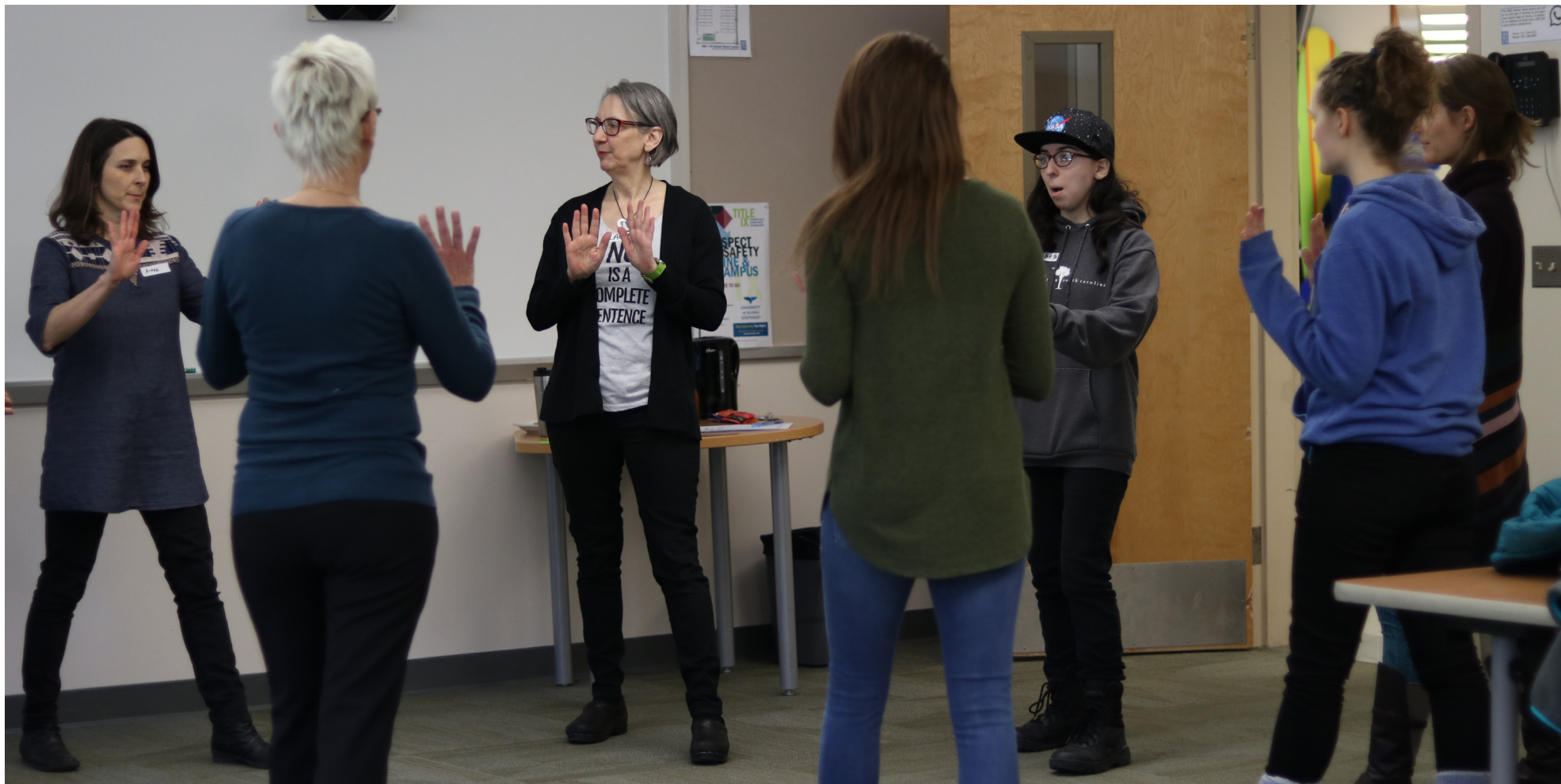
about the solution the wrong way.

Overall, the film looks into themes of responsibility and injustice as a double-edged sword. Where sometimes doing what we think is right can lead to greater consequences down the line that our children will have to take responsibility for and attempt to fix.

The film is a must-see, not just for fans of the Marvel films, but as an all-around good and topical film. For me the film, was a welcome change from the recent superhero films that have come out, focusing on issues that are more grounded, then the world threatening bad guy.

DEFENDING YOURSELF

Title IX, Student Activities Board, and the Chancellor's off all come together to sponsor a self defense course



TOP: Defend Yourself founder and director leads a group of eight UAS students and staff members through how to firmly stand and intimidate a potential threat.

FAR LEFT: Defend Yourself directed attendees on how to be realistic about risk, how to appear calm and confident, simple verbal strategies for dealing with everyday threats and intrusions, and basic physical skills when escape is not an option.

NEXT: Defend Yourself works to empower people, especially women and LGBTQ people, to end violence and create a world where they can be fully themselves.

PHOTOS BY ERIN LAUGHLIN | UAS WHALESONG



Attendees introduce themselves to each other in order to feel more comfortable discussing a heavy topic like assault.



Lauren Taylor demonstrates the importance of an escalating voice in order to clearly communicate to a potential attacker.

Don't let a virus happen

Avoiding viruses tips from the UAS IT Helpdesk



By MELISSA ARNOLD
for the UAS Whalesong

Viruses happen to everyone. You could be responding to your Nigerian prince, and then experience a computer meltdown moments later.

A computer virus, like a flu virus, is designed to spread from host to host and has the ability to replicate itself.

Similarly, in the same way that viruses cannot reproduce without a host cell, computer viruses cannot reproduce and spread without programming such as a file or document.

So when you opened your email from your Nigerian prince a virus most likely made itself at home in your computer.

Viruses can also travel through phishing spam messages, which are designed to induce individuals to reveal personal information, such as passwords and credit card numbers, and can be dangerous.

The university frequents these phishing attempts, and the best way to keep your university account safe is to change your password after opening a message and notifying your campus IT desk so they can spread the word of warning to others.

However, in the event that you waited too long and the virus began to take root, helpful software tools such as Malwarebytes and Symantec Anti-virus software can help combat your computer's virus before it spreads even further.

These software are available through both the UAS and OIT software downloads page free of cost to you! To access them simply log in with your UA credentials and download the one you would like.

Viruses can be scary and can lead to you having to reinstall your entire operating system. The best way to prevent this is to take the precautionary steps and place an antivirus software on your device and contact your local help desk for assistance if needed.

Study Away:

Boston, Massachusetts

UAS student finds direction and adventure in National Student Exchange to the east coast of the United States

By **NICK BURSELL**
for the UAS Whalesong

I remember the day I signed up for National Student Exchange. At the time, I honestly didn't really know what I was doing with my life. In the midst of UA's Legislative Internship program, I had already realized that while maybe working as a legislative aide was something I could do for a few years, I could never be satisfied with it as a career. This was sort of my experience with college at the time; just about every general course I tried thinking I might've found the field I'd like to have a degree in ended with nothing more than my interest falling off about halfway through for any number of reasons. Be it geology, philosophy, communications, environmental science, and now politics, I never found myself in the state of mind that would allow me to be comfortable with sticking to a major.

Upon taking on the Legislative Internship program, which is basically an unpaid 90 day full time job plus weekly classes for 15 credits, and coming to the same revelation as all the rest of the subjects I once had an interest in, I realized that what was holding me back was not a lack of direction - it was a constantly lurking dread of structure, a state of complacency, and a fear that I would never personally change once I finished college and immediately entered the field I had so hastily attained a degree in for no reason other than an ambiguous interest which I myself failed to fully understand. I needed to go, see somewhere I'd never seen, and live a life I hadn't yet lived.

I talked to a good friend of mine many times about his year on exchange in Europe before this revelation set in. I heard plenty of stories of wildly different cultures, unplanned adventures into unknown lands, and unforgettable people. However, I knew this wasn't precisely what I was looking

for. I can see the appeal to those who need to completely change their lives to attain their fulfillment, and that isn't something I will ever rule out for myself in the future, but for now, it was not the adventure I needed. I needed something just a little different from what I was doing now, some change for a little while. The day I had my revelation, I walked down to the exchange office, and applied for NSE. It wouldn't be long before I found out that not only had I got into the program, but my academic standing set me up to pay only in-state tuition here at UAS, so while I was living the brief self-reflective period I wanted, I also was able to remove the stress of adjusting to a whole new academic bureaucracy, all the while saving about \$6,000 in tuition.

I went to Boston, where another good friend of mine goes to school. I'd been for a few days a while back, but now I had four months on the East Coast. I lived the exchange life I'd heard of - I experienced life in a completely new city, I took in a culture so different yet so familiar, and I made a host of new friends. However, the most important thing I sought all along, the space, change, and piece of mind to ponder what I should get my degree in and what I wanted to do as a career came in full force.

It's something I'd loved and worked on for a long time, but with a whole new city's worth of inspiration, all my fears of pursuing it melted away. I changed my focus to creative writing, and I'll be getting my degree in English here soon. I'm going to be a writer, or in the very least I'm going to try, and I don't think I'd be comfortable in that kind of commitment had it not been for the period of self discovery that the NSE experience allowed me. All it takes is one day's worth of inspiration, courage, and the will to change, and for those of you who feel lost like I did, a brief, new life can make all the difference.

Mumps in Juneau

As Alaska's capital city sees it's first cases of the mumps in 20 years be aware of the importance of vaccines

By **GABRIELLE ABREAU**
Staff Writer, UAS Whalesong

This is the first time in 20 years that mumps has been seen in Juneau.

As of mid February Anchorage alone has seen over 100 mumps outbreaks.

Even though it's nowhere near as severe in Juneau with only two lab confirmed cases and five suspected, this is a matter that has to be taken seriously.

When people typically think about mumps it's usually children that come to mind but, both children and adults are capable of contracting the virus

We've all heard some interesting reasons as to why some people are anti vaccination.

"Some people believe it can cause autism and other developmental delays, some don't like the ingredients found in vaccines, while others just don't want to be told what to do," said Juneau Public Health Center nurse Allison Gaines.

While its always fun hearing these strange and sometimes even absurd reasons behind anti-vaxxers it's time for this to become a more serious conversation.

According to the CDC, the MMR vaccine (Measles Mumps Rubella) has been around since 1971, beforehand the three vaccines were done separately but still successfully eradicating the viruses.

Being immunized is especially important on school campuses, since there are a high number of people sharing spaces.

Herd immunity, or community immunity, protects those who can not protect themselves.

According to U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, community immunity protects everyone. But it's especially important because some people can't get vaccinated for certain diseases — such as people with some serious allergies and those with weakened or failing immune systems (like people who have cancer,

HIV/AIDS, type 1 diabetes, or other health conditions).

Community immunity is also important for the very small group of people who don't have a strong immune response from vaccines.

"Once immunization reaches below about 91% you could have a disease outbreak, which is why it's important to be immunized against infectious disease if there are vaccines available," said UAS Physician Assistant Amanda Arra.

"In order to dorm at UAS housing members are required to of had two MMR vaccinations however to just be a student without living here the school does not require any kind of immunizations," she said.

While there idno reason to fear a mass outbreak yet, please be sure to take care of yourself.

Everyone should be taking precautions. Make sure to stay home if you're not feeling well, and to immediately contact a health professional if you think you might have some of the mumps symptoms.

Be on the lookout for: fever, headache, muscle aches, tiredness, loss of appetite, and swollen and tender salivary glands under the ears on one or both sides.

While severe side effects like: deafness, swelling of the brain and/or spinal cord covering (encephalitis or meningitis), painful swelling of the testicles or ovaries, and, very rarely, death are extremely rare; it's still important to stay on top of these things.

If you're worried call your doctor and find out if you are up to date on vaccinations, for those of you who are up to date.

Be sure to stay home if you're feeling ill and disinfect commonly shared areas like kitchens and bathrooms in order to avoid spreading germs.

If you find that you are in fact up to date but still wish to take further precautions you are able to get another dose of the MMR vaccine if you wish at the Juneau Public Health Center.

Taxes 101 with UAS

Professor Julie Hamilton

Exploring the W-4 and what to think about this tax season



By **GABRIELLE ABREAU**
Staff Writer, UAS Whalesong

As a college student, my friends and I have been joking around for years about all the things we should have been taught in high school.

On the top of this list for most people is taxes.

We all remember our first real job. More importantly we all remember the first time we held a paycheck, already planning how to spend our hard earned money.

Until, we ripped it open and saw that there was a chunk of our earnings that was suddenly missing! This was most people's introduction to taxes.

I went to Assistant Professor of Accounting Julie Hamilton for a crash course in taxes 101.

Hamilton explained that when you fill out a W-4 the information you're putting is what is used to determine how much to deduct from your paycheck "the employer (or the payroll software used by the employer) will figure out how much to withhold from your paycheck according to your W-4 information, and how much money you earned for that paycheck.

"The IRS builds tables for these withholding amounts that can be accessed through irs.gov," said Hamilton.

The information that you put on this document also determines if you will receive money back from the government or if you will have to pay them.

But, for the self employed things are a little different

According to the IRS, self employed people have to pay income tax on these earnings, as well as a self employment tax (Social Security and Medicare).

"So if my business makes a profit of \$10,000, I'll have to pay income tax and self employment tax on that amount - which generally amounts to a total of 25% or more. That \$2,500 that I owe the IRS was never withheld from my earnings," Hamilton said.

Personally when people have tried to explain taxes to me, they might as well be talking to be in Latin.

It all sounds incredibly complicated on the surface, but it turns out all it takes is for someone to sit down and explain the ins and outs.

When you fill out your W-4 if you opt to have the maximum amount of taxes deducted from your paycheck you will most likely be able to steer clear of having to pay the IRS when the time rolls around, but this isn't true for everyone.

As long as you don't have rental properties, are self employed, or anything

else along the lines filing your taxes is pretty painless.

It's even easier if you make sure to keep watch of your spending throughout the year. Especially checking if you have any items that could be deducted from your income tax.

Deductible items include student loan interest paid, moving expenses incurred for a new job, a traditional IRA contribution, mortgage interest and property taxes on your primary residence, charitable contributions, etc, according to Hamilton.

Hamilton did go on to explain that while there are plenty of other things that count as a deductible, many of them come with their own set of rules.

The best thing to do if you believe that you might have deductible items you should do some research and talk to someone that might know more about it.

Once you have all of your documents in order you can take them to a tax preparer, file online for free on websites like Turbotax,

or you can do them yourself.

Let's not forget the final and most favored option of just handing it all over to your parents.

Hamilton gave her final piece of advice, "I would advise that they get assistance from someone who is familiar with taxes - a friend, parent, sibling, teacher - or they use a volunteer tax site."

UAS and Tlingit and Haida Regional Housing Authority have a volunteer tax site (VITA) that will prepare your taxes for free. It is for lower to middle income individuals and families, who do not have complicated tax forms (e.g. large self employment business).

Students are welcome to come to the site for assistance.

For anyone who has to file but hasn't had the chance to yet, remember that you have until April 17 to file; if need be there is an option to file for a 6 month extension with the IRS, making the tax return due by October 15.

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Professors ice out misconceptions on climate change

UAS professors lead conversation in climate change during a presentation Mar. 2

By **MCKENNA KINCAID**

Photographer, UAS Whalesong

UAS Alumni & Friends and the Student Alumni Association hosted a Climate Change presentation Mar. 1.

The presentation was lead by UAS Assistant Professor of Forest Ecosystem Ecology Brian Buma, and UAS Professor of Environmental Science Eran Hood. Both professors focused primarily on how climate change is affecting southeast Alaska, especially as it pertains to our local glaciers and forest ecosystem.

Professor Eran Hood shared research that displayed not only the importance of glaciers, but how their demise will have strong impacts on the southeast.

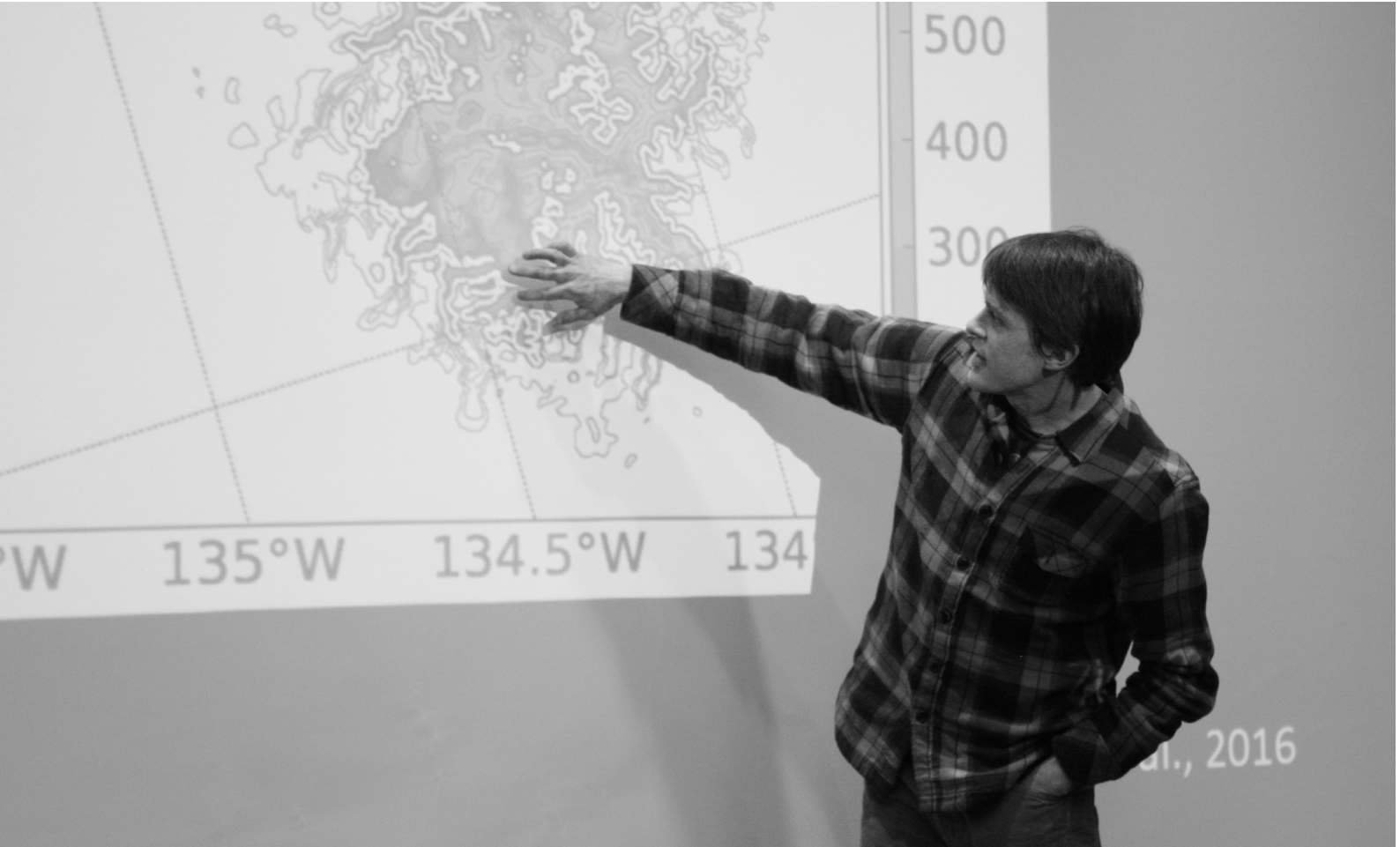
“By gradually losing the glaciers themselves, we are in fact losing an entire rich ecosystem,” Hood said.

Glaciers are not, as explained by Hood, just giant blocks of melting ice, but are indeed host to tons of microorganisms that have become an ecosystem unto themselves.

Through the glaciers slow movements and grinding of rocks, glaciers supply local water sources with nutrients such as iron. Glaciers also contribute to the culture of the southeast, as well as tourism (and the economic benefits that come along with that factor).

Alaska’s melting glaciers are a large contributing factor to the world’s rising water levels, so losing them due to increasing temperatures (the southeast is projected to see a 6 degree increase in average temperature by 2080) will have far reaching effects that go beyond Alaska.

“The Juneau ice field is projected to not only lose ⅔ of its mass, but ⅔ of its surface level by the end of the century,” said Hood.



These rising water levels have lead to over 500 new salmon streams around the southeast coast, but as the water temperature is changing due temperature increase, some of these streams are becoming non-ideal for salmon. This may lead, with time, to a decrease in the salmon population. As the cultural aspect of salmon, as well as the revenue gained is very crucial to southeast Alaskan life, this is something to take note of.

Professor Brian Buma discussed how climate change is affecting southeast, focusing on the forest ecosystem.

“Southeast’s rich carbon supply is leading to our forests getting fuller and thicker,” said Buma.

While many areas in the southeast have thriving forests,

some forests are experiencing turmoil. Because of the general warming in the southeast, the lack of snow in causing problems for certain populations of trees, especially trees with short roots. These trees are susceptible to cold snaps, and without the snow to protect their roots they are dying off in large sections.

The extent of the decrease in snow and tree mortality rate is still being studied, but it will have definite reaching impacts on the forest ecosystem.

According to Buma, Alaskans should most expect to see the effects of climate change is going to be in the rise of the insect population (as the temperature increase, insects mate more and hatch sooner), landslide increases, and wind rates.



TOP: Hood shares his research on glaciers to students, faculty and community members.

ABOVE: Professors Hood and Buma co-presenting Mar. 2.

PHOTOS BY MCKENNA KINCAID | UAS WHALESONG

NRSC coordinator honored at community event

Native and Rural Students Center Coordinator Kolene James is named a Woman of Distinction for 2018

By **JORDAN LEWIS**

Staff Writer, UAS Whalesong

“I feel awesome. I feel anxiety. I feel humbled,” said Coordinator of the Native and Rural Student Center at the University of Alaska Southeast Kolene James. After 14 years of empowering students through social justice efforts and community outreach James was nominated as a Woman of Distinction by the AWARE organization.

AWARE, which stands for Aiding Women in Abuse and Rape Emergencies, has hosted the Women of Distinction event since 1997.

The event is put on not only to honor the selected women, but to act as a fundraiser for AWARE. Funding goes on to support operations in Juneau and nine communities in Southeast Alaska, according the Executive Director of AWARE Saralyn Tabachnick.

“The Women of Distinction award is a way to honor women who are doing outstanding work and making significant contributions in our community,” Tabachnick said.

“We have several goals with this event, one is to honor women doing great things in the community. Another is to hear the honoree speak about what inspires them and what brought them to where they are today,” said Tabachnick.

James was selected due to her work at UAS, specifically in the Rural Student Center where she considers herself a “cheerleader” for underrepresented demographics.

She has always been a strong believer in education being the great equalizer, “I realized that for the kind of future I wanted to provide for my kids I needed to have a degree.”

During her time as a student at UAS, she realized communal voids within the university.

“I recognized that a lot of students like myself who come from underrepresented populations could use a cheerleader like myself so I applied for a position as the Coordinator [Native and Rural Student Center],” James said.

“I have looked for ways to empower students whether it was through social justice training or working closely with community leaders to get students access to some really great opportunities that lead to professional development and personal healing.”

UAS student Gabby Kirchner who is a club member to both clubs that James advises illustrated her



NRSC Coordinator Kolene James speaking at Women of Distinction Saturday Mar. 3.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY KOLENE JAMES

commitment to the community, “She does a lot of advocacy work for both Woo.cheen and the Campus Inclusivity Alliance. She dedicates her time to make sure everyone is on task and feels comfortable.”

The nomination process depends heavily on community engagement said Tabachnick. Members of the community look at the impact women have made as factors in their potential nomination. Once AWARE collects these nominations, their board of directors selects four women to be honored.

Additionally, Tabachnick felt that, “We can all learn from each other and this event can give younger women an opportunity to see role models or maybe to hear one sentence that clicks for them, that gives them a shift in thinking or an idea of what they can do to express their unique self.”

The event honoring all of the women selected, being Kolene James, June Degnan, Kueni Ma’ake, and Lauree Morton was held on March 3, 2018 at Centennial Hall.

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WHALESONG PUBLICATION SCHEDULE (SPRING 2018)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE	ISSUE #	PUBLICATION DATE
JAN. 16, 2018	1	JAN. 24, 2018
JAN. 30, 2018	2	FEB. 7, 2018
FEB. 13, 2018	3	FEB. 21, 2018
FEB. 27, 2018	4	MAR. 7, 2018
MAR. 13, 2018	5	MAR. 21, 2018
MAR. 27, 2018	6	APR. 4, 2018
APR. 10, 2018	7	APR. 18, 2018

Subject to change. Advertising and Article Submissions are due by noon on the deadline. Submit to uas.whalesong@alaska.edu

OFF CAMPUS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 7

Alaska Design Forum Lecture Series:

Daniel Ladner, 6 p.m., KTOO 360 North.

Daniel Ladner of Bearth & Deplazes Architect, Switzerland . Admission \$15 General/\$5 with Student ID.

SEACC Trivia Night, 7:30 p.m., Imperial Billiard & Bar, 241 Front St. Test your knowledge and learn about Southeast at our second annual trivia night and win some great prizes!

THURSDAY, MAR. 8

Umpire Training for Adult Softball, 6 p.m., Thunder Mountain High School, 3101 Riverside Dr. Umpires Search for 2018 Adult Slow Pitch Softball season. The Juneau Douglas Officials Association (JDOA) and Juneau Softball Association (JSA) are currently recruiting for Umpires. Training will begin March 8, 2018. Season runs May through Aug. Umpires are needed 2-3 games/nt, 1-5 nights/wk M-F and 3 weekend tournaments. Experience is desired, but training is available. Training begins Thursday, March 8, 2018 at Thunder Mountain High School 6-8pm in Room C-105, for 8 consecutive Thursdays. Training will include rules, mechanics, managing the game and handling play situations. more info: www.juneausoftball.com Juneau Sports Association, 463-3633

Pub Theology, 6 p.m., Barnaby Brewing Company, 206 N Franklin St. We're now meeting 2x a month! Everyone is welcome-Pub Theology is a place where different viewpoints, ideas, philosophies, & ethics come together in a respectful setting to share. No matter what your background, what you believe (or don't believe), your voice is welcomed. Each Pub

Theology will have a different theme. Come bring your questions, your curiosity, and pull up a chair.

FRIDAY, MAR. 9

International Fly Fishing Film festival, 6p.m., Rockwell, 109 S Franklin St. IF4™ Film Festival consists of short and feature length films produced by professional filmmakers from all corners of the globe, showcasing the passion, lifestyle and culture of fly-fishing. The films at this popular event are capturing the attention of anglers around the world. Raffle, no-host bar, all ages event. Benefit for Tongass Chapter Trout Unlimited. \$15 (Alaska Fly Fishing Goods, or at the door)

Next To Normal, 7:30 p.m., McPhetres Hall, 325 Gold St. Description: Being put on by the Juneau Douglas Little Theatre. This is a brilliant and emotional Broadway musical about a family torn by the day-to-day expectation of "normalcy" and how that battles with an unorthodox family dynamic. With an overlying threat of mental illness presented through beautiful musical numbers, this show is just the medicine for the Broadway-philes out there. Tickets at the JAC.org, Hearthside Books, the JACC and at the door. Learn more by visiting: [Facebook.com/JuneauDouglasLittleTheatre](https://www.facebook.com/JuneauDouglasLittleTheatre)

SATURDAY MAR. 10

Sm'algax Language Learners Group, 12 p.m., Edward K. Thomas Building conference room, 9097 Glacier Hwy. All who wish to speak Sm'algax, the language of the Tsimshian people, are welcome.

Discovery Southeast 2018 Banquet & Auction, 5 p.m., Juneau Arts &

Humanities Council, 350 Whittier St. An evening supporting and celebrating nature education for Juneau children . Tickets at DiscoverySoutheast.org

SUNDAY MAR. 11

Restorative Yoga, 10:30 a.m., The Yoga Path, 5326 Shaune Dr. Breathe and settle into supportive postures. This class is accessible to all, brand new to yoga, mobility issues (take note there are stairs to the studio) and anyone wanting to relieve stress. Make this class like an appointment, a well-deserved practice to restore and revive.

Juneau Sings Sacred Harp, 2 p.m., Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 325 Gold St. Some sing some uniquely American music , mostly from the 18th and 19th centuries. A capella, 4-part, no experience necessary.

MONDAY, MAR. 12

Fall Prevention Class, 1 p.m., Pavitt Health & Fitness, 10004 Glacier Hwy. Do you have fear of falling? Are you recovering from an injury? Do you take medications that throw your balance off? Class included: a pre and post balance assessment, core stability strengthening, how to make adjustment sin your home to help prevent falls. This will be taught by Kathy Washburn, Nationally Certified Personal Trainer and Senior Exercise Fitness Specialist. Sign up at the front desk or call 789-5556 to register. Cost is \$144 for non-members/\$72 for members.

Tlingit Language Learners Group, 6 p.m., Downtown Juneau Public Library (large conference room). Interested in learning the Tlingit language? This group, run by Tlingit language learners, is free and open to everyone in the community, regardless of language experience. We meet Mondays at the downtown Juneau Public Library from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 14

Juneau Job & Career Expo 2018, 12 p.m., Mendenhall Mall, 9105 Mendenhall Mall Rd # 369. Description: Juneau's premiere event connecting job seekers and employers. Over 30 employers expected to attend. More information available at juneauempire.com/jobfair Free

Raincountry Flyfishers, 7 p.m., Thunder Mountain High School, 3101 Riverside Dr.

Speaker to be determined Open to the public, no charge. Kevin Miller, 790-4463.

THURSDAY, MAR. 15

Preconference-Lighting The Way to Resilience, 12:30 p.m., Centennial Hall Convention Center, 101 Egan Dr. The Juneau Suicide Prevention Coalition's (JSPC) preconference will build on our two previous community education conferences (2015 & 2016) with a focus on Adverse Childhood Experiences and its link to suicide. In this year's conference, we hope to activate the community, increase our sense of connectedness, and provide tangible action steps. Join us to start Lighting the Way to Resilience! Register at <https://www.rsvpbook.com/event.php?512355>

Mindfulness Film Festival, 7 p.m., Centennial Hall Convention Center, 101 Egan Dr. Come relax and enjoy film shorts on mindfulness, empathy, kindness and resilience, and discuss with table groups. Light refreshments provided. Open to the community and free with canned or non-perishable food donation for the SE Alaska Food Bank.

FRIDAY, MAR. 16

Saint Patrick's Day at the Hangar, Hangar On The Wharf, 2 Marine Way #106. The Hangar will serve food specials all day before playing host to Juneau's biggest Saint Patrick's Day Party. Come early and order an Irish dish like Beef Boxty, Lamb Stew, Corn Beef & Cabbage. Each priced under \$14. Stay late for live music from DJ Manu and Alex K and The Unmentionables. The hanger Ballroom and bar will be open late. Music starts at 10pm with free admission for everyone, but you have to be at least 21! Remember, wear green and head downtown this weekend!

Blarney Bash, 7 p.m., Red Dog Saloon, 278 S Franklin St. There will be a Leprechanun Name Game, Irish themed food, green beer, dancing and the infamous Kamikaze Karoke Showdown is back! We are excited to announce that SuSu and the Prophets will be LIVE at 9 PM. Tickets are on sale for \$35 per person, \$40 at the door.; all tickets include food and a green PBR beer! It's easy to purchase your tickets online at more info <https://tinyurl.com/2018Bash>. <https://www.facebook.com/58Innovators/>



By: L. A. Bonté



For more comics visit FilbertCartoons.com

ON CAMPUS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 7

Whale Wednesday, UAS Juneau campus, all day. Show your school spirit by wearing blue and white or UAS swag on the first Wednesday of every month! Post your photos to social media with #UASWhaleWednesday. Keep an eye out for the snackin' wagon and prize wheel on campus at various points in the day.

Tlingit Language Hour with Naaweyiia and Shxaakw Dis Hit, NRSC, noon. Bring your lunch to the Native and Rural Student Center and join us for Tlingit Language Hour with Naaweyiia and Shxaakw Dis Hit. All levels of learners and speakers welcome!

Public Presentation - Dr. Kathryn Hildebrand, Finalist for Executive Dean of Alaska College of Education, 2 p.m., Egan Library 104. Public presentation by candidate Dr. Kathryn Hildebrand, one of two finalists for the position of the Executive Dean of the Alaska College of Education. This will be a 45 minute presentation followed by Q&A. The presentation will be streamed live on UATV for remote viewing. Following the event, a recording will be posted to the AKCoE planning website.

THURSDAY, MAR. 8

Spring Bat Presentation, 6 p.m., Egan

221. Annual presentation for the Alaska Bat Monitoring Program. We will review what we've learned from this citizen science based project, which utilizes acoustic bat detectors and surveys driven by community volunteers to research and monitor bat populations across the region. Training for those interested in contributing to the program will be provided. All are welcome! Free

FRIDAY, MAR. 9

Student Government Meeting, Glacier View Room, 10 a.m. Please join the United Students of the University of Alaska Southeast at our weekly meeting. All students, staff, and faculty are welcome. Please contact us with any questions or for a copy of this week's agenda.

Intramural: Volleyball, REC, 7 p.m. Volleyball this spring semester is on Friday nights (7:00pm-9:45pm).

SATURDAY, MAR. 10 to 18 SPRING BREAK

MONDAY, MAR. 12

Climbing Cert Night, REC, 6 p.m. If you need to be certified this would be the night. Once certified you're good to climb when the REC is open! Free climb (boulder) or on belay it's a great time. Jam to our house audio system as you traverse the wall or climb on our auto

belay. All climbing equipment is available for use.

Intramural: Dodgeball, REC, 7 p.m.

Dodgeball this spring semester will be on Monday nights (7:00pm-9:45pm). Must be a REC Center Member or a guest (18 years of age and older) of a REC Center Member. Dodgeball Open Gym begins on Monday, January 22, 2018.

TUESDAY, MAR. 13

Open Gym: Basketball, REC, 7 p.m.

Consider this preseason before the competition starts during spring intramural season. Join your friends or make friends playing basketball at the REC every Tuesday and Thursday evening at the REC. All skill levels welcome!

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 14

Be the Change Youth Conference, 9 a.m., Egan Library. A free, one day youth leadership conference open to all high-school teens to discuss systems of oppression and how we can work together to find solutions to the inequities we see and feel in our community. This conference features interactive workshops followed by a facilitated dialogue around racial and gender equity. If interested in volunteering, please contact morgans@awareak.org.



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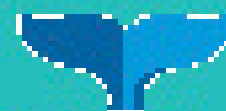
UAS Financial Aid Office

Tel: (907) 796-6255 | Novakney Building, Upper Level

uas.alaska.edu/financial_aid

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